(c) The quantity of SCN produced in BPCL's Mumbai Refinery during the last 3 years is as under:-

(Figures in TMT)

year	Quantity
1994-95	228.3
1995-96	219.4
1996-97	312.0

The consumers for SCN are M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. Patalganga for producing value added petrochemicals.

(d) The shortfall in HSD production is met by imports.

Criteria for Allocating Permanent Gas Connections

1977. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for allocating permanent gas connection to the consumers in India; and

(b) the details thereof and whether it is a fact that some of the consumers have not got gas connection for last seven years since they have applied for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy, the procedure followed for release of new LPG connections by the Public Sector Oil Companies is as under:

The customer has to register at the distributorship after producting proof of residense and obtain the waitlist registration slip showing the waitlist registration number. On maturity of the waiting list, distributor will advise the person for availing the new domestic connection. After varifying the requisity documents, the distributor arranges for the inspection of hot plate and also verification of the residential address. On verification of the above details, the distributor issues a subscription voucher on collection of the security deposit and other recoverable amount from the customer for releasing the connections. Thereafter the connection is installed at the customers premises.

A person can also get new LPG domestic connection immediately under Tatkal Scheme on payment of one time lumpsum non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- in addition to normal security deposity.

As on 1.4.97, some distributors of the public sector Oil Marketing Companies were holding waitinglist for more than 7 years old. However, as per the directions of the Government in April, 1997, the Oil Companies would be clearing the waitlist of prior to 1.1.91 by 30.9.97.

Diversion of Kerosene for Adulteration of Diesel

1978. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government's estimate one third of kerosene supplies have been diverted to adulteration of diesel, due to the vast difference in the sale price of Kerosence and diesel; and

(b) whether, with the proposed hike in the prices of all petroleum products except kerosene, this gap is likelty to further widen, if so, what steps are contemplated to effectively prevent such diversion of kerosene and its use for adulteration of diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A study made, about three

years ago, by a consultancy agency, had indicated diversion of kerosene at different points, particularly through wholesalers for the purpose of adulteration and sale in black market, etc. on account of high price diffeential between Kerosene and Diesel. Central Government has taken a number of steps to check diversion and adulteration, and as retail distribution where mostly diversion takes place, is the responsibility of State Government, they have also been advised to retionlise the system of distribution and to plug loopholes to prevent diversion and adulteration. The decision about adjustment and revision of prices of different petroleum products is yet to be taken.

Coal-Bed Methane Potential in the Country

1979. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the coal-bed methane potential in the country;

(b) the likely reduction in demand of oil if the same can be explored and used;

(c) the exploration jobs carried out at present by ONGC;

(d) the location of the sites and status of exploration in these areas; and

(e) the further action plan for exploration of coal-bed methane in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The current estimates of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country have been tentatively placed at about 1000 billion cubic metres.

(b) Reduction in oil demand will depend upon the extent of substitution of petroleum products by the CBM as and when produced commercially.

(c) ONGC has acquired 80 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 2 R&D wells for CBM exploration in Durgapur depression of Raniganj basin, West Bengal. Recently another location in Parbatpur block of Jharia Coal field has been taken up for drilling.

(d) and (e) The following coalfield areas have been identified for exploration of CBM:—

1.	Raniganj
2.	Jharia
3.	East Bokaro
4.	West Bokaro
5.	Sohagpur
6.	Satpura Basin
7.	North Karampur

Government has recently approved a new policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM, which provides for global competitive bidding for granting licences for exploration and exploitation of CBM, a fiscal and contractual framework for this purpose and specific incentives to investors.

Acute Shortage of LPG Cylinders

1980. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where shortage has been reported;

(c) the reasons for the current shortage; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to augment the supply of LPG cylinders?